

CHALLENGE



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CAPITALISM: We charge you with racist murder



The KKKops, the KKKourts, the Ku Klux Klan—all are part of the bosses' plan

CHICAGO, November 20—Members and friends of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) joined hundreds of multiracial protestors downtown today to blast the racist “not guilty” verdict of the murderer Kyle Rittenhouse. The unsurprising results of the trial in Kenosha, Wisconsin are another

clear reminder that a capitalist judicial system is designed to protect its racist and violent foundation. Only communism is capable of guaranteeing workers' safety and rights. Once our class smashes racism, private property, and profit with revolution we will run a society that no longer fosters the likes

of Rittenhouse and the institutions that have protected him.

For anyone familiar with the thoroughly racist and sexist nature of the legal system under capitalism, the result should come as no surprise. The capitalist bosses would love for antiracists to feel dejected and cynical. The presence of thousands of angry workers and youth marching across the country, however, proves that the fighting spirit of the working class is alive and well!

As communists in PLP we know we have to immerse ourselves in the mass movement in order to help guide spontaneous rage against the profit system's abuses into a militant and disciplined Party fighting for mass international revolution. Attempting to reform capitalism is like trying to control a runaway train. PL'ers are on deck today and every day, with new and old friends, to win our class to the lifelong fight for communism!

Racist capitalism let Rittenhouse off the hook

The PLP arrived at the rally, armed with a bullhorn and hundreds of CHALLENGES and leaflets, ready to call for revolution. We split up into small groups to cover different spots around the plaza, where we could hand out literature and chat with workers.

Many workers seemed especially eager to take copies of CHALLENGE and our flyer, with some asking how they could get more involved with the Party on the spot. In contrast to the dead-end strategies offered by the opportunist politicians and reform groups at the rally, our calls for workers' power through communism clearly struck a chord.

In contrast to the bogus liberal claim that it was “white-skin privilege” that got Rittenhouse (and many others like him) off the hook, he in fact got

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Inter-imperialist clash in the Horn of Africa



Situated in the Horn of Africa, where a significant portion of the world’s crude oil resources flow from, Ethiopia holds immense geopolitical importance due to its strategic access to the Nile, Gulf of Aden, and the Mediterranean.

The year-long civil war in Ethiopia is a fight over power and money between two vicious groups of local capitalist rulers. It also reflects the sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry between China and the United States for control over the strategically vital Horn of Africa. Most of all, it reminds us that there are no good bosses, no side that represents the interests of the international working class. Workers in Ethiopia have no future under the criminal, Nobel Prize-winning prime minister or the fake-left, identity-based “liberation” forces that stole everything they could while in power.

Only communist revolution, led by a mass Progressive Labor Party, can stop the bosses’ endless blood-soaked clashes for maximum profit. Only communism, a society run by and for the working class, can put an end to sexism, racism, and exploitation.

Workers ravaged by bosses’ conflict

The latest conflict in Ethiopia began in November 2020, when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed ordered an offensive against the Tigray People’s Liberation Front. The TPLF, a group long backed by the U.S. and widely rumored to be tied to the Central Intelligence Agency, had ruled the country with secret prisons and brazen corruption from 1991 to 2018. That’s when Abiy “was appointed by the ruling class to quell tensions and bring change, without upending the old political order” (CNN.com, 11/5). The move backfired when the TPLF—whose leaders were ousted from power and arrested for graft—rejected the new government and reportedly assaulted a federal army base outside Tigray’s regional capital.

The war has dragged on ever since—with workers, as always, bearing the brunt of it. According to a joint investigation by the United Nations and Ethiopia’s human rights commission, “both sides have engaged in violations of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law...war crimes and crimes against humanity” (Guardian, 11/3). Numerous first-hand accounts have told of civilian massacres, torture, and gang rapes. While most of the terror appears to have been perpetrated by Ethiopian government forces and their Eritrean allies, a “youth group called Samri killed ‘more than 200 civilians’—ethnic Amhara—in Mai Kadra, western Tigray, with the help of local police, militias and others affiliated with the rebel TPLF” (Guardian, 11/3).

Despite loud protests by the UN and calls for a ceasefire by the Joe Biden administration, it’s clear that workers have no “human rights” under capitalism, where they are treated either as commodities for profit or as cannon fodder in the bosses’ cutthroat competitions.

To date, despite a media black-out, it’s estimated that tens of thousands have been killed in the fighting in Ethiopia—on top of the 1.4 million that were killed in the earlier, 17-year civil war that originally brought the TPLF to power. More than two million workers have been displaced, and a “man-made famine”—created by government blockades against emergency food deliveries—have left hundreds of thousands on the brink of starvation (Aljazeera, /11/4).

China rising

The carnage in Ethiopia has been fueled by arms exports from an array of capitalist bosses striving to gain a foothold in the Horn of Africa, from China and Russia to Germany, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates (ipsnews.net, 11/25). Before a belated arms embargo declared by Biden on November 1, the U.S. had heavily invested in the “modernization” of the country’s military, dating back to the 1950s.

Besides the fact that it’s the second most populous country in Africa, why does Ethiopia get so much attention from the im-

perialist bosses? To begin with, it’s a matter of geography. Ethiopia is the dominant nation in the Horn of Africa, which controls the oil route from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea—from the Middle East to Europe. After being dominated by Britain and the U.S. and then invaded by Italy under Mussolini’s fascists in the runup to Word War II, Ethiopia became a semi-colony of the Soviet Union, pushing a state capitalist ideology that contributed nothing for the benefit of workers. After the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, the U.S. rushed to fill the void. In recent years, however, there’s a new contender for regional influence, the rising capitalist power of China.

For China, Ethiopia is “the gateway to Africa” and the continental lynchpin for China’s Belt and Road Initiative. China has flooded the country with inexpensive mobile phones, solar energy (in a country where only 30 percent of the population has access to electricity), and ambitious infrastructure projects. “By giving loans that are unable to be paid back in full, China holds Ethiopia firmly within its grasp, creating a never-ending cycle of debt...Chinese lenders require collateral: in this case land and resources. This places the country more into Chinese control, and supplies cheap land for China to build overseas manufacturing” (medium.com, 3/26/20).

The once-sleepy international airport in Addis Ababa is now the third busiest in East Africa, a major cargo hub for Chinese exports (medium.com, 3/26/20). China has also leveraged its growing power in the region by establishing its first overseas People’s Liberation Army naval base in neighboring Djibouti.

Fight for communism!

Never in Ethiopia’s history has there been a government that defends the interests of the working class. Workers have been oppressed by a succession of dictatorial, racist, and nationalist regimes and immersed in endless war. They have no role under capitalism except to suffer and die. The experience of Ethiopia shows the urgent necessity to end capitalism for all time with a mass international revolution that arises from the minds and hands of workers in the factories and fields. The revolutionary ideas of PLP will guide us to replace the dictatorship of the bosses with a dictatorship of the proletariat. Workers’ internationalism will smash sexism, racism, imperialism, nationalism, and the exploitation of the working masses. Fight for communism! Build PLP in every corner of the planet!☛

'I'm so tired' of Baraka's lies—smash racist housing

NEWARK, NJ, November 21—As the housing crisis intensifies worldwide, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members met with neighbors of North Newark's Stephen Crane Village, a 354-unit public housing complex. We organized to heighten the struggle for better living conditions under capitalism and build a revolutionary communist movement led by PLP. Each year, Black liberal misleader, Mayor Ras Baraka hosts a "State of the City" symposium to quell the rage of Black and Latin workers in this area. As a way to strengthen the morale of new comrades and all workers in Newark, PLP decided to host our own communist speak-out at the Crane.

We've been teaming-up with a comrade who lives in the area to sell CHALLENGE and connect with workers. It's been a slow build but we continue to meet people who are interested in communist ideas and fighting back. Two comrades, a healthcare worker and an educator, grabbed the bullhorn and spoke about fighting back for better housing and fighting for communist revolution.

As workers listened from their homes, PL'ers walked over to offer them CHALLENGE. A group of children playing on the basketball court stopped to listen and joined in when we chanted "Asian, Latin, Black and white, workers of the world unite!"

Workers knock the rotten foundation of capitalist housing

When PLP passed the mic, a neighbor voiced her anger about the property manager's mistreatment and failure to address the issues of the workers that live there. "I'm so tired and I know many of you all are annoyed having to go down to the leasing office to repeat complaints about the same situation they have documented on their computers and no one comes out to fix the problems. They tell us the same story every time: there's not enough workers to fix the problems in the complex. Why do I have mold in the apartment? Why is the plumbing



A Latin woman worker in Newark denouncing racist housing conditions. Workers need communism—a system that puts worker's needs above profit.

terrible? And why can't I stop coughing?" Capitalism's failures have increased the privatization of housing in areas like Newark, allowing slum lords to neglect and manipulate workers. A few months ago, the building managers sold the public housing facility to private developers and have left the residents with deathly conditions to deal with alone.

Big Fascist "Build Back Better capitalism" will fail workers

In line with President Joe Biden's day-late-dollar-short Build Back Better bill, Newark's Mayor Ras Baraka made public promises to create and preserve 6,600 affordable housing units in Newark by 2026. Workers can't afford to wait that long for better housing. And even still, the city would need 16,000 units to meet the needs of all workers in this

area (NJ.com, 6/21). While bosses in the White House argue over how many bones to toss down to workers, the health of our class suffers at the hands of managers and landlords who are lining their pockets in the midst of a pandemic. An infrastructure bill will never be enough to resolve the mounting crisis of housing, education, health and police violence that work in tandem to ruin workers' lives and communities.

Fight for better housing, fight for communism!

PLP affirms that only an internationalist communist future, where workers take state power, will vanquish the grueling cycle of capitalism. To put communism in action, PLP stands side by side with workers FIGHTING BACK and building a movement for communist revolution to win a world for workers in the long run!

One neighbor suggested we survey each family in the complex about the conditions of their unit and report it back to the city, especially after the disastrous Hurricane Ida. We agreed and added

the idea of including the senior building next door. We will also distribute CHALLENGE. One woman worker reported her roof was leaking during the storm and showed us the ceiling cracks and mold in the apartment. She has been complaining about this decay for weeks, while the landlords still left a rent notice in her mailbox. Under communism and PLP's leadership, a profit system will not exist and housing structures will be designed to keep workers' needs and participation in decision-making primary. To get there, we need as many of our working class brothers and sisters as possible sharpening the struggle between the ruling class and the workers. Stand up and demand that enough is enough!! It's time for the united international working class to fight back!! Join PLP in the fight!✊

Rittenhouse, a creature of kkkapitalism

Continued from page 1

off because of his service in upholding the racist capitalist status quo that views property as more valuable than workers', especially Black workers' lives. It was this racist, sexist system that filled Rittenhouse's head with a rotten ideology and armed him with an assault rifle to travel across state lines to shoot and kill two antiracist white workers fighting for justice for Jacob Blake. While Black and Latin workers are super-exploited by racism, all workers suffer at the hands of capitalism and it is with multiracial, international fightback that we will truly win.

It is practically certain that if any Black or Latin worker tried what Rittenhouse got away with they would never have made it out of Kenosha alive, much less faced a trial. But to push the "white privilege" line is to distort the truth of the source and beneficiary of racism and all other divisive anti-worker attacks: capitalism.

Racist ideas and violence attack Black, Latin, Asian and immigrant workers first and hardest, but they are used to lower the living standards of the entire working class, including white workers. When white workers unite with other workers in militant antiracist struggle, the bosses and their thugs don't hesitate to unleash state terror on them too. Our multiracial working-class unity is truly our most powerful weapon against capitalism, and thus the bosses' biggest fear.

PL'ers crank up the militancy

By the time the rally turned into a march, our collective was ready to turn up the militancy a notch. Using our bullhorn, we took turns in leading the



How to smash racism: read CHALLENGE and join PLP. Together we can smash racism with multiracial unity and communist revolution.

crowds in chants like, "The kkkops, the kkkourts, the Ku Klux Klan! All are a part of the bosses' plan!" and "What does Rittenhouse mean? We've got to fight back!" Other PL'ers and friends gave speeches in between chants, including a Black worker who blasted the bosses' criminal injustice system to wide applause.

A little boldness can often go a long way. Many marchers who were at first hesitant to take a flyer or CHALLENGE were more inclined the second time around after seeing the Party's communist politics in action. To this end, we ran out of the 500 flyers we printed up as well as close to 400 copies of CHALLENGE.

Most inspiring, we were able to get contact information for nearly 10 young antiracists, including one who was familiar with the Party from CHALLENGE sales in a south side neighborhood! What we do really counts!

Join PLP to turn the guns around

As uplifting as the march turned out for us, we have to keep a sober assessment about the dangers surrounding the international working class. From fascists like Rittenhouse and the kkkops shooting us down in the streets, to the imperialist bosses whipping up nationalism to try to get us to fight and die in their wars of profit, we must prepare to confront capitalist state violence with revolutionary violence. Pacifism and trusting in the bosses' courts are two deadly miscalculations for our class.

The international communist PLP represents the force that will one day turn the guns around and smash the bosses and their murderous, racist profit system for good. Join us in the struggle to ensure that the day of our collective liberation comes sooner. ✊

Rittenhouse Still Guilty:

PLP stands with antiracists in the face of liberal fascist verdicts

Brooklyn, NY—Kyle Rittenhouse was acquitted of murder charges on a Friday and in the days leading up to that verdict I discussed the importance of this case with co-workers and my students. State-sanctioned political assassination of antiracist leaders by right-wing vigilante elements was on trial, and is as old as U.S. racism and capitalism. The decision to acquit came as a surprise to some, not to others, but groundwork for some sort of a response was laid.

In the coming days two more court cases that put racist killers on trial were decided. It is widely acknowledged that the decision ruling against the killers of Ahmaud Aubrey only happened because damning video evidence surfaced. The court ruling against the organizers of the 2017 Charlottesville fascist ‘Unite the Right’ rally where another protester, Heather Heyer, was killed is manifestation of a Big Fascist effort to drive its Small Fascist (see Glossary, see page 6) rivals out of political relevance. Big Fascism is a push for the widest possible extension of social control in preparation for wider conflict with imperialist rivals China and Russia.

Liberal fascists turn their guns on antiracist fighters

Big Fascist Joe Biden’s response that our jury system works and that protest must not destroy property shows us that it is a dangerous illusion to see in liberalism any protection for dedicated antiracists. With his response to the Rittenhouse verdict, Biden has told us ‘if you want to fight racism and you get shot and killed you’re on your own.’ This was the same message liberal New York City mayor Bill de Blasio voiced as he blamed protesters in the most cynical and craven terms possible when his mad dog cops rammed their trucks into crowds of protesters in the wake of the killing of George Floyd.

Working class students lead—where liberal politicians won’t

Monday, on the job, a multiracial group of young people went to visit our school’s Black Students Union to send the message that we embrace the spirit of multi-racial unity and solidarity against racism that Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber showed and paid

for with their lives. Spirited struggle between the strategy of multiracial unity and of ‘Black spaces’ in the fight against racism ensued among faculty and between students.

A social gathering over Thanksgiving weekend expanded from a small dinner with neighbors to a larger event drawing together former students, current co-workers and family and was transformed into a part of our Progressive Labor Party response to the Rittenhouse verdict. Our message and commitment to each other is simple—if you want to fight racism you are not, in fact, on your own. The workers movement for an armed communist revolution is with you all the way. This offensive strategy is our best defense. Today’s racist killers and their liberal protectors will cower before the might of a new and antiracist state power.

Kyle Rittenhouse is indeed a young man, little more than a boy who was led far astray by open racism and has now been protected by liberal fascism. He may well live to see communist state power.☸

A report from Haiti

Building fightback amid super exploitation

For readers of CHALLENGE it is not uncommon to read reports of super exploitation and crisis in Haiti. Workers in Haiti have been faced with the daily violence of capitalism, mishandled natural disasters that keep them fighting for their lives, and mostly recently have been front page news as the latest target of racist border attacks. These reports, time and again, show a working class in Haiti and internationally amidst a continuous life-and-death struggle. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is on the ground in Haiti and taking leadership from Black workers as we build class consciousness and a revolutionary spirit!

The government in Haiti is unable and unwilling to do anything to stop this current reign of terror. First, it is facing its own crisis: after the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, political parties are in disarray, vying for power and control. Second, and perhaps most important, this is how they’ve designed the system - one in which workers are suppressed by a limited job market and skyrocketing price of living. Gasoline prices are off the charts, the pumps go dry from time to time, and truck drivers stage intermittent strikes in protest, effectively shutting everything down.

The primary goal of the capitalist system is to extract as much value as possible from the workers and the natural resources. Today, one of Haiti’s primary resources is its workers. They are forced to flee untenable conditions and become low-wage workers in surrounding countries in the Caribbean, or further afield in Latin America, the U.S., Canada, and Europe. They become part of the migrant journey, perhaps the greatest migration of workers from



the global south to the global north, fleeing war between capitalist rivals. They are fleeing unsustainable economies from the ravages of climate change and political instability, as various capitalist leaders exploit the migrants for their own political benefit.

Our Party in Haiti is immersing itself in the daily struggles of workers and students to try to make ends meet in an increasingly fragile situation. As revolutionary communists we understand more and more that liberation from the ravages of capitalist exploitation

demands an international working class army, in which Black worker leadership is key! Through our daily interactions, study groups and struggles, our comrades discuss with fellow workers why these conditions exist, why there is such widespread inequality not only in Haiti, but in the region and the world as a whole, and the role of racism and sexism in keeping our class divided and disarmed.

We know that this disgusting system can be smashed! That workers and students, under the leadership of PLP can change the world. Not for the few, but for the many. Our comrades always talk about building the masses’ confidence in the Party, and the Party’s confidence in the working class. This is not idle thought, but the basis of struggle and advancement in our strength as a class.

Our comrades’ commitment to struggle and building the Party is exemplary. Not that we do everything correctly all the time, but we are willing to analyze our situation as a “noyau” (core) of revolutionary organizing, evaluate the successes and mistakes, and always try to move forward. Workers’ lives in Haiti are as difficult as their neighbors but we are determined to fight and win. As comrades always say, “Join us!”☸

Buenaventura, another affirmation of why Black workers are key to revolution

COLOMBIA—Buenaventura is a city on the shores of the Pacific Ocean with 400,000 inhabitants, of which 90% are Afro Colombians, 82% are in poverty (according to DANE data) and 42% in misery. It is the most important port in the country that generated in 2020, 14,356 million dollars of income. It is through this port that 70% of Colombia's exports leave the country.

Before 1957, when this port belonged to the state, it had more than 10,000 dock workers, most of them Black workers. It is worth mentioning that in turn, in most of the coal mines on the Atlantic coast, in the salt mines throughout the country and in the sugar cane plantations, 100% of their workers are Black. After the privatization of the port, there are no more than 5,000 workers, despite the fact that the port terminals have been increased from one to thirteen. Through this port, all kinds of merchandise are imported and exported, from cocaine, arms, bananas and coffee, to trafficking displaced workers and children from different parts of the world.

Despite the fact that Buenaventura is irrigated by many rivers and is on the shore of the Pacific Ocean, more than 42% do not have drinking water. The paramilitary gangs and drug traffickers fight over the land, the landowners want to plant African palm and coca, and the owners of the ports say that “as long as the merchandise leaves and enters the port smoothly, the Black [workers] are worth nothing.” The mega cultivation of palm has become an alarming problem not only for Buenaventura but also for the rest of the Colombian territory. These mega-palm crops, apart from being cultivated by workers under terrible working conditions, imply the loss of tropical forests and their richness in biodiversity. They create large forest fires such as those generated in Indonesia in 1997. In addition, palm cultivation turns the territory into a “green desert”, drying up natural water tributaries and wetlands. Previous deforestation, together with the massive use of fertilizers and insecticides, cause serious pollution and a huge loss of biodiversity. Faced with



this situation, workers in different cities have protested, denounced and boycotted companies that promote this criminal practice.

Capitalist try to strangle workers fightback with racist terror

Port workers had social benefits, health, pensions, study aid and vacations. Today they do not

have any indefinite term contracts. They are paid for services, that is, they do not have any of the benefits they previously had. In Buenaventura, Black workers are deeply mistreated, murdered and disappeared, making this area one where displacement is daily. The workers have to go with their families to Cali, another nearby city where wealth is disputed between paramilitaries and arms and coca smugglers.

The dock workers have been an example of struggle and have inspired the rest of the social movement in the country. The last strikes that occurred in 2017, 2019, 2020 and the latter in 2021 (which was one of the longest and most massive) have been led by Black and indigenous workers. Despite more than 680 disappearances and the countless dismembered bodies that appear daily down the Cauca River, these workers continue to fight. Their enthusiasm will be lost if we do not organize them with the ideas of the Progressive Labor Party.

If we do not intertwine and understand the importance of Black workers in the working class and how they have been the basis for capitalist exploitation and oppression, we will continue to suffer these atrocities as we carry out struggles that will not offer us true liberation.

Black and indigenous workers are the ones who have suffered the consequences in the most stark and open way, since they are the ones who have the greatest disappearances and murders. Systematic racism is seen both in the United States and in Colombia and although mestizos also suffer the consequences of capitalism, it is Black workers who have fewer opportunities for study, work, and lower life rates compared to white Colombian workers.

We must fight to emphasize our political line by leading and bringing the CHALLENGE, organizing and offering the only possible hope for Black workers, indigenous, and the workers of the world. There may be a lot of struggle but as long as we do not organize with our line for the communist revolution, we will be delaying the struggle of the workers. ☺

The Spanish Civil War

International Brigades to fascists: ‘They shall not pass!’



“No Pasarán.” They will not Pass.

These gripping words of the Spanish communist leader Dolores Ibaruri (“La Pasionaria”) captured the anti-fascist determination that brought thousands of working-class volunteers to the battlefields of Spain eighty-five years ago. Now fascism is rearing its racist head again – all over the world. The international working class must rise up again, but

this time to smash fascism and its capitalist masters forever with communist revolution, where the working class rules.

The Spanish Civil War preceded World War II in Europe. The Spanish fascists, led by General Francisco Franco, fought to overthrow the liberal, capitalist Spanish government. These fascist “insurgents” were backed by most of the Spanish ruling class. They were

armed and trained by the German Nazis and the Italian Fascists.

Only communism can destroy fascism

The Loyalists, fighting for the Spanish government, were a mixed bag of regular

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LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Working-class leadership, the personal is political

I lost the Condo Board of Directors' election but advanced the political struggle just a notch. I had run for a seat on the Board of Directors at the urging of my new neighbors at the old but solid building complex I settled into last spring.

It started over a grill. I had asked a ground floor neighbor if they wanted my charcoal grill (allowable under management rules). She declined because she did not want to become a target of building management again.

"Again?" I had personally felt mistreated by management when I moved in, but then spoke with many different neighbors. People shared their own struggles with management as well as those experienced by their neighbors. Everyone - "Asian, Latin, Black and white!" felt mistreated!

During the door-to-door campaign for the Board seat, I heard that residents simply wanted respect, dignity and unity -98 percent of the people talked about mistreatment by management, rodent and roach infestation, inadequate parking, increasing fees, and management's refusal to support the disabled and elderly who wish to age in place.

The election itself was shady. "Someone" tore down my posters in common areas, I wasn't given contact information that the other candidates had access to, and the balloting site's on-line location was communicated inconsistently. The virtual meeting was difficult for anyone with poor internet connection or limited internet knowledge to participate in. The capitalists' message is clear: Keep out!

During the virtual election forum, the President of the Board, a local, Harvard-educated politician who supports real estate developers, took 90 percent of the time to focus on herself and what 'she' claimed to have accomplished, apparently single-handedly, for the entire local region. She shamelessly attacked my character. The one candidate who did not have his camera on never spoke but garnered the most votes. Clearly, capitalist investors protect their investments and pay lip service to the working class.

I had focused on what residents really wanted: respect, community, health and safety. In contrast, the Board president, when pressed about the rodent infestation, blamed the residents, claiming that they wouldn't allow exterminators into their apartments because of the Covid-19 virus. This was a blatant lie!

The issues in our buildings are complex. They are old and need expensive repairs, like much working-class housing around the world. The whole mess is another example of why we need communism!

I plan to regroup and work with my wonderful neighbors and not abandon the struggle for livable housing now and revolution in the not so distant future!

★★★★★

Building my confidence in the working class

I'm a transit worker in NYC and about a month ago the working class in Haiti underwent and are still facing difficult times, our comrades included. Our comrades said that they needed funds due to the earthquake so I went out to ask the workers at the union meeting for

help and also my coworkers at the quarters. I wasn't expecting much mostly because of my own lack of confidence in the working-class. Sometimes it's a little hard to feel hopeful. But when I started asking my coworkers, I was wonderfully surprised that they were all too willing to give what they could. Some workers said, "of course man, we gotta help especially how they been treating them at the border," in response to the racist imagery of Biden's troops gallivanting on horse, chasing workers with whips like the slave catchers of the past. Another worker said "Yeah we gotta stick together". Another said,"make sure I get a receipt or something. Wanna make sure it's going to the right place."

It's easy to get caught up in cynicism when faced with the everyday viciousness of capitalism. But when we reach out to our fellow workers, we are the ones being lifted up. Keep reaching. Keep fighting. Communism is alive with every worker's sacrifice.

★★★★★

Call it what it is

CHALLENGE is a wonderful newspaper!! The only newspaper that really fights for communism! But I have a criticism. On page four of CHALLENGE (12/1) in the article from Chicago, the term "food insecure" is used twice. This is the bosses' euphemism for hunger and starvation. I don't think that it should be used in CHALLENGE except to explain its hypocritical usage by the bosses. CHALLENGE doesn't use any other bosses' euphemisms (such as "underserved" and "disadvantaged") and I don't think that "food insecure" should be used either

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GLOSSARY COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Newark Firefighters, reject racist bosses' infighting!

NEWARK, NJ, September 8—Members of the Newark Firefighters Union, Newark Fire Officers Union, Newark Fraternal Order of Police, Newark Police Superior Officers Association, and a union called Newark Council 21 held a protest to oppose a vaccine mandate ordered by Newark's nationalist liberal boss, Mayor Ras Baraka. This debacle is between different factions of the local Newark ruling class. One side is represented by liberal racist Baraka against the gutter racist, opportunistic police department unions backed by their fascist kkkops on the other side.

When Baraka ordered all emergency workers and police to be vaccinated or face termination, the misleaders of the Newark Fire Department's firefighter and captain's unions were quick to assume a lead role in organizing the protest, arguing that the mayor has no right to terminate them for being unvaccinated. Both factions pit Black and white workers against one another and prevent multiracial working class unity, with both factions playing different versions of identity politics. In a gross misappropriation of the liberal slogans of the movement for women's reproductive rights, the anti-vaxxer protest was mostly white male emergency workers and kkkops, who marched around Newark City Hall yelling "MY BODY, MY CHOICE!"

Meanwhile, communists are fighting to build a multiracial workers' movement led by the Progressive Labor Party to expose the hypocrisy of both sides of Newark's local ruling class. It's time for serious class struggle around issues that matter, rather than the red herring of the bosses' vaccine mandate!

Emergency workers: exploited by insurance finance capital

For years, Newark Fire Dept's union leaders have taken the path of least resistance when it comes to fighting to improve conditions for firefighters. For example, a fully staffed crew that is assigned to put out a fire normally consists of one captain and four firefighters. Because liberal misleader Baraka and his administration refuse to pay overtime, firefighters have for years been forced to fight fires while understaffed. This means a crew to extinguish fires has one captain and only two firefighters. This routine short staffing was exacerbated by the sick leaves due to firefighters getting sick from COVID-19, leaving many firehouses further understaffed.

One solution would have been to pay overtime to fill the roll calls, but the Baraka administration would let firefighters work in already life-threatening conditions while understaffed rather than pay overtime. All the while, the union hacks stand back and stand by while this happens, rarely organizing any collective fightback to defend workers. Instead, the firefighter's union joins with the police unions, as in this recent anti-vaxxer protest, creating confusion within emergency workers' ranks over whose side their class interests lie: with the racist kkkops who kill protecting capitalism, or with the international working class?

Modern fire departments began after the 1666 Great Fire of London, which burnt down 70,000 of the city's 80,000 workers' homes and killed unknown thousands. For the rising British capitalists, it cost insurance underwriters hundreds of millions of pounds in destruction to commercial property. Private fire departments owned by rival insurance companies spread to what became the U.S. to protect capitalist property, eventually consolidating into the system the U.S. has today. As recently as 2013, nineteen firefighters were killed in the Yarnell

Hill Fire in Arizona. Tragically, the town had already been evacuated— the fire overran them while they battled to protect commercial property in the empty nearby town (Tucson.com, 6/29/18).

Communism: our class, our only choice!

As far as the department leadership is concerned, they see us as 'lazy', ignoring the toll that working 24 hour shifts and fighting fires while wearing 100 lbs. of extra gear takes on our bodies over time. In fact, they have recently even added medical duties to firefighters without properly training or paying them. Many firefighters have internalized the bosses' lazy worker narrative by blaming and shaming one another for not being "tough enough" to handle the workload instead of uniting to attack the bosses.

The firefighter and captain's unions fought the added medical mandate by filing an unfair labor practice charge. After an initial ruling in the firefighter's favor the dispute went up to the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the city. The unions cancelled the protest when they lost the court decision, giving up and leaving us workers out to dry instead of using our collective power as workers to take a job action.

Firefighters must begin to see that capitalism and its managerial staff of opportunist politicians and union fakers are the real enemy. They must also understand that any alliance with the police is a dead end, as the police are the security force for capitalism and mortal enemies of the working class. Instead, firefighters should ally with other workers and students in the communities they serve and deepen their ties with them, building fightback alongside them on the way to worker's power and revolutionary communism.☺

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

The Spanish Civil War

International Brigades to fascists: ‘They shall not pass!’

Continued from page 5

and irregular troops. They included communists, Trotskyists, and assorted liberals. They wanted a liberal, capitalist democracy in Spain. But capitalism turns to fascism in any crisis. Today capitalists are turning to fascism everywhere from China, Russia, the U.S. and everywhere in between. Only destroying capitalism with communist revolution can destroy fascism.

The Loyalists received arms and some training from the fledgling Soviet Union. Communists organized young men and women from all over the world into the International Brigade to fight alongside the Loyalists against fascism. These young workers fought well and bravely. They proved on battlefield after bloody battlefield that thousands of young workers would fight to the death against fascism. But the Loyalists lost the war. Franco's iron fist ruled Spain for the capitalists for nearly 40 years.

Eighty-five years ago, the communist movement did not understand that only communism could defeat fascism. Its strategy was to build an anti-fascist “Popular Front” that would pressure liberal capitalists such as U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt to aid the Spanish government. But the “neutral” Roosevelt administration cut off support to the Loyalists, while GM, Texaco, and other U.S. companies funneled trucks and gasoline to the fascists. (The movie Blockade (1938) shows clearly the pro-fascist actions of the U.S. bosses). Worldwide, the fight to finally destroy fascism must be a fight for commu-



nism.

Who were the soldiers of the International Brigade?

In 1996, 500 members of the International Brigades were honored in Madrid. Here are

some of their stories:

Sam Russell was preparing to finish his studies on Ancient Egypt, when he decided to fight in Spain. Why did he change his mind? “All governments were very permissive towards Hitler's and Mussolini's aggressions. Those of us who had certain values couldn't remain with our arms crossed against fascism.”

Trudel “Trudy” Van Reemst-de Vries, a Dutch Jewish woman, served as a nurse. After the war, she and her husband joined the anti-Nazi Resistance in Holland. Her only son was born while she was fighting in the Resistance. Van reemst-de Vries was arrested and sent to a Nazi concentration camp and never saw her son. Still, she said: “I will do it again because I knew I was fighting for the future of my child and the children of all other mothers.”

Mikel Economides was a Cypriot volunteer. He says, “We are not the ones who deserve to be honored. It is the people of Spain who deserve ... when fascism seemed unbeatable, they showed that common folks could fight fascism.”

The International Brigades were 40,000 strong coming from 52 countries Some 16,000 gave their lives fighting fascism. Communists were 60 percent of the volunteers and another 20 percent became communists during the civil war. Today as the imperialist powers prepare for world war once again, we must rebuild the communist movement to not only destroy fascism, but the worldwide capitalist system that breeds fascism🌐



RED EYE ON THE NEWS ...



Capitalism fully on display in Lagos, Nigeria

Der Spiegel, 9/30–A landscape of skyscrapers

fills the horizon, with new ones continually popping up ... between 21 and 24 million people are already living in the greater Lagos metropolitan region. Experts expect it to become the largest city in the world by the end of the century. Lagos is a city where the rich don't hide their wealth and the poor can't cloak their poverty. Many residents ... have migrated from other West African countries ... The prospect of a better income is what brought them to the megacity of Lagos.

Bar Beach, the last public beach in town, used to be located where the luxury vehicles enter the gated community today. This too is a symbol of the new Lagos – a city where no space is provided for people who want to go to the beach without having to pay for it. Experts worry that the wall built to protect the rich may have shifted ocean currents ... toward the people who can't afford to pay \$6,000 a month in rent.

Military build-up in Europe shows potential for war

Foreign Affairs,11/20–Ominous signs indicate that Russia may conduct a military offensive in Ukraine as early as the coming winter. Moscow has quietly built up its forces along the Ukrainian border over the past several months, which could be a prelude to a military operation that aims to resolve the political deadlock in Ukraine in its favor ...

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's hard turn away from seeking a compromise with Russia a year ago eliminated any hope that Moscow can achieve its objectives through diplomatic engagement... The United States has provided lethal military assistance, and NATO is helping to train the Ukrainian military. [Russian President Vladimir] Putin noted that although Ukraine may not formally be granted membership into NATO, “military development of the territory is already underway. And this really poses a threat to Russia.”

War in Ethiopia continues to escalate

NY Times, 11/25–The Nobel Peace Prize has

dogged [Ethiopian Prime Minister] Abiy Ahmed since he went to war a year ago ... this week Mr. Abiy ... declared that he was heading to the battlefield himself to lead the army as it tries to stave off rebels advancing on the capital ... a war that has displaced two million Ethiopians, driven at least 400,000 into famine-like conditions and now threatens to tear the country apart.

Ethnic Tigrayan rebels, who started their march on Addis Ababa from northern Ethiopia in July, say they are now 120 miles by road from the capital. The Biden administration is leading a diplomatic effort to halt the fighting and prevent the collapse of a key U.S. security partner in the Horn of Africa. Security forces have engaged in a fierce roundup of ethnic Tigrayans that has seen thousands arrested, many crammed into makeshift detention centers.

Black and Latin owned homes appraised below market values

Brookings.edu, 11/17–In September, Freddie Mac released a groundbreaking analysis of the U.S. home appraisal industry. Consistent with concerns raised by critics, they found that homes in Black and Latino or Hispanic neighborhoods are much more likely than homes in white neighborhoods to be valued below what a buyer has offered to pay.

A team of economists and data scientists at Freddie Mac analyze more than 12 million appraisals for purchase transactions submitted to Freddie Mac from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2020 through the Uniform Collateral Data Portal (UCDP). Freddie Mac is a government-sponsored enterprise chartered to buy mortgages from banks in order to lower the cost and increase the supply of residential loans.

The research team's main finding is that homes located in majority Black neighborhoods and majority Latino or Hispanic neighborhoods are significantly more likely to have appraisals submitted to Freddie Mac that are below the contract price when compared to homes in majority white (not Latino or Hispanic) neighborhoods.

Remembering The Red Army:

THE BATTLE OF MOSCOW SETS THE STAGE FOR
HITLER’S DEFEAT



Death to the beast of fascism

The capitalists of the world are more afraid of communism than anything else. The Soviet Union was a nightmare for capitalists and their hangers-on. For 35 years the then-socialist Soviet Union proved that the working class: could rule a huge country; transform it from a ruined, peasant society into a modern industrial country; eliminate unemployment; and provide free medical care, education, retirement pensions, paid vacations – a decent standard of living for every worker.

The international communist movement, headed by the Soviets fought fiercely against sexism , racism, and every form of oppression. It was a mortal threat to capitalist rule everywhere.The largest attempt in history to destroy this, the world’s first workers’ state was the invasion of the Soviet Union by Adolf Hitler’s Nazi army.

Communist fighters
smash facist armies

In December, 1941, 80 years ago, the communist-led Red Army of the Soviet Union stopped Adolf Hitler’s Nazi hordes cold. The Battle of Moscow stopped Hitler’s Blitzkrieg.

Hitler had always wanted a war against the then-socialist Soviet Union to stop communism. On August 11, 1939, Hitler said that “everything he undertook was directed against Russia.” The capitalist leaders of Europe encouraged him.

Germany had lost World War I because it lacked petroleum for fuel and rubber for tires. Hitler and his generals realized that Germany needed to wage a motorized war. They imported huge stockpiles and began to make synthetic petroleum and rubber from coal.

But this was not enough. So the Nazis needed to defeat the Red Army in no more than eight weeks – the kind of “lightning war,” or Blitzkrieg,

that had defeated France in May-June 1940.

No capitalist country would ally with the Soviet Union. So in August 1939, when Britain and France had sabotaged the last attempt at joint action against Hitler, the Soviets signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, a non-aggression treaty with Nazi Germany, in order to gain time for the inevitable German attack.

This treaty gained the Soviets 22 months to prepare for the inevitable German attack, and kept the German army 200 miles away from the Soviet border. Hitler was confident of a quick victory –and also desperately needed one. On June 22, 1941, Nazi Germany and her allies – over 3,700,000 strong – attacked the Soviet Union. The Red Army suffered very serious losses and retreated.

But they had defenses in depth. They killed a great many German and allied troops and fatally slowed the Blitzkrieg. Escaped soldiers and civilians formed partisan guerrilla groups in the German rear to sabotage the long German supplies lines.

Already in July 1941, Canaris, head of Hitler’s military intelligence, said the German situation was “black.” In August, the German High Command was saying Germany might lose the war. Meanwhile German troops were not prepared for winter weather – Hitler had only planned for a 2-3 month war.

The Battle of Moscow

In early December, 1941, small German units were close to Moscow. But they never got any farther – thanks to the heroic Red Army. On December 5, at 3 a.m., the Red Army counterattacked and drove the Nazi hordes back. This was the first counterattack any army had ever made against Hitler’s forces.

The Battle of Moscow stopped Hitler’s Blitzkrieg, dooming Hitler’s attack. On December 8, Hitler abandoned the offensive. According to German General Jodl, Hitler realized on December 5, 1941, that he could no longer win the war.

The German defeat of December, 1941 – the Battle of Moscow -- had made Hitler so desperate that he had to risk war against the United States in order to draw Japan into the anti-Soviet war.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. On December 11, 1941, Hitler declared war against the United States! But in 1939, the Red Army had defeated a Japanese invasion. This convinced the Japanese not to attack the Soviet Union, so they refused to help Hitler.

The Battle of Moscow sets the
stage for Hitler’s defeat

- * Shortages of fuel stopped Hitler from reinforcing German forces in North Africa, leading to Germany’s defeat in the fall of 1942.
- * The 1942 German offensive towards the Caucasus oil fields was forced on Hitler to gain essential fuel. The Red Army smashed the Nazis at Stalingrad.
- * Hitler’s fascist allies, Finland and Spain, became demoralized. Spain and fascist Portugal began to collaborate with the Allies.
- * On June 6, 1944, “D-Day,” the Western imperialist Allies stopped delaying and invaded France. They met stiff resistance, but defeated the German forces, 80 percent of which were far away fighting the Red Army.

Except for the Battle of Moscow, the Allies would probably never have invaded at all, but would have sought peace with their fellow anticommunist Hitler, who would have been incomparably stronger with the wealth of the Soviet Union at his command.

The Red Army killed 80 percent of all German soldiers killed in the war

The Soviet victory against the Nazi hordes proved that the capitalists could not crush the communist movement by force. But the Soviet Union and the international communist movement succumbed to capitalist ideas from within. They came to hope, and then to believe, the fatal notion that violent revolution against capitalism was not necessary, that socialism could be achieved through elections and by allying the working class with “good” liberal capitalists against the openly fascist bosses.

Nevertheless, we should be inspired by the Red Army’s victory over the Nazi army. The world’s bosses were defeated through communist dedication and leadership. We pledge to do so again.🇷🇺

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